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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon announced today the \$30 million appropriation for non-federal levees in Terrebonne Parish has survived the conference between House and Senate on the 4th hurricane supplemental (HR 4939). The full House of Representatives could vote on the bill as early as this Friday.

"Senator Landrieu and I have been fighting in Washington to secure federal funds to help Terrebonne Parish repair the levees destroyed by last year's hurricanes," said Melancon.

"I am pleased we are one step closer to helping South Louisiana protect itself from future storms until a comprehensive levee system can be built."

Jerome Zeringue, executive director of the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, added, "Repairing the levees will provide protection to the residents and infrastructure within Terrebonne Parish until the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System is complete. Had the project we intend to complete with this funding been in place before Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, several of communities in lower in Terrebonne Parish would not have been in flooded. We're very appreciative of our delegation and we thank them for their support and we look forward to implementing these projects and ultimately the Morganza to the Gulf as quickly as possible."

The \$30 million appropriation will upgrade and elevate non-federal levees, many of which have sunk since being built, to a consistent 8-10 foot level of protection. The improved levee system will provide hurricane protection until Morganza to the Gulf is completed, and then provide a secondary ring of protection for lower Terrebonne Parish.

Congressman Melancon has also introduced the Meeting Authorizations Required for the Coast (MARC) Act of 2006 in the House of Representatives, which includes authorization for the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System. The system will protect 200,000 people in Southeast Louisiana who are currently exposed to a Katrina-like storm. The MARC Act is being sponsored by all seven House members from Louisiana.

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